

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL073740691US

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

JONATHAN EDWARD LIGHTNER
JOHN JOSEPH OKULEY

CASE NO.: BB-1043 US NA DIV

APPLN. NO.: UNKNOWN

GROUP ART UNIT: UNKNOWN

FILED: CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: GENES FOR MICROSOMAL DELTA-12
FATTY ACID DESATURASES AND
RELATED ENZYMES FROM PLANTS

Date: OCTOBER 26, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Preliminary Amendment

This is submitted to facilitate prosecution of the above-identified application.

In the Claims

Kindly cancel claims 2-8, 11, 12, 14 and 21-23.

Kindly amend the following claims:

9. (amended) Oil obtained from the seeds of [the plants of Claim 8] a soybean plant having a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding a fatty acid desaturase with an amino acid identity of 50% or greater to the polypeptide encoded by any one of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 or 15.

10. (amended) A method of producing seed oil containing altered levels of [unsaturated] hydroxylated fatty acids comprising:

(a) transforming a plant cell of an oil-producing species with a chimeric gene [of Claim 5] comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding a delta-12 hydroxylase;

(b) growing fertile plants from the transformed plant cells of step (a);